IN RE:

PUBLIC MEETING

FOR

STATE PROJECT 700-18-0014 (ENGINEERING) STATE PROJECT 6-01-0012 (CONSTRUCTION)

HUEY P. LONG BRIDGE WIDENING

ROUTE U.S. 90

JEFFERSON PARISH

Transcription of Public Meeting in the above-referenced cause held at the Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Boulevard, Westwego, Louisiana, held on Tuesday, June 24, 2003, commencing at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 8:07, p.m.

REPORTED BY: JANE BORRELLO-LAMERE
Certified Court Reporter

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1 PROCEEDINGS
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- 2 (Public Meeting commencing at 6:00 p.m., C.D.T.)
- 3 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 4 Good evening. Would everyone
- 5 please be seated? Good evening. My name is Jan
- 6 Grenfell. I'm an Environmental Impact Manager with
- 7 the Department of Transportation and Development.
- 8 And on behalf of the Department I would like to
- 9 welcome you here this evening to the proposed
- 10 widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson
- 11 Parish.
- 12 I would like to begin by introducing
- 13 the staff present here this evening. From
- 14 D.O.T.D.'s Bridge Design section we have Mr. Ray
- 15 Mumphrey. From D.O.T.D.'s Road Design section we
- 16 have Mr. Richard Savoie. Our Deputy Secretary, Mr.
- 17 Blaise Carriere, is present this evening. From our
- 18 District 2 real estate office we have Mr. Paul
- 19 Charron also in the back. And we have staff here
- 20 from two consulting firms: Modjeski & Masters and
- 21 Coastal Environment, Incorporated. From the firm of
- 22 Modjeski & Masters we have Mr. William Conway, Mr.
- 23 Bruce Peterson, and Ms. Martha Sternitzke, and
- 24 Jeremy Martin at the sign-in table. And from the
- 25 consulting firm of C.E.I. we have Ms. Karen Wicker

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1 and Mr. Ed Fike.
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- 2 Are there elected officials present
- 3 this evening who would like to introduce themselves?
- 4 COUNCILMAN NICK GIAMBELLUCA:
- 5 I am Councilman Nick Giambelluca
- 6 from Jefferson Parish. Thank you.
- 7 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 8 Thank you. Are there any other
- 9 elected officials who would like to be recognized?
- 10 (No response).
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 12 Thank you. I now would like to go
- 13 over the format and agenda for this evening's
- 14 meeting. Shortly Mr. Bill Conway with Modjeski &
- 15 Masters will give a technical presentation to
- 16 describe to you the proposed project. We will then
- 17 recess for about 20 minutes so that you can look at
- 18 the exhibits and ask questions of the staff present
- 19 this evening. Following this recess we will have a
- 20 question and answer part of the meeting. If you
- 21 wish to speak at that part, during that question and
- 22 answer, please fill out a statement card like the
- 23 one I have in my hand. We have these available at
- 24 the entrance table. If you would like to speak,
- 25 please fill one out and turn it in either to me or BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

1 at the entrance table. And I will call on everyone

- 2 who turns in a statement card.
- 3 Because this meeting is recorded I ask
- 4 that everyone who speaks during that period come up
- 5 to the microphone and speak clearly into the mike so
- 6 we can accurately transcribe your concerns. Whether
- 7 or not you make a verbal statement tonight, you may
- 8 make a written statement to the Department. We have
- 9 a form that you can use. It is the last page on our
- 10 handout. And whether or not you use the form, our
- 11 address, our mailing address is on the back of the
- 12 form. All of the written statements that we receive
- 13 tonight and within ten days of this meeting will
- 14 become part of the transcript of this meeting. If
- 15 you would like to turn in a form tonight we do have
- 16 a box at the sign-in table that you can use. It's
- 17 marked. Mr. Conway?
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 19 Thank you, Jan. Over here on the
- 20 screen to my right is a picture at the top of the
- 21 Huey Long Bridge as it presently is, and toward the
- 22 bottom is a picture of the Huey Long Bridge as we
- 23 intend it to be after the widening. And you will
- 24 see that picture, or variations of those pictures
- 25 throughout this presentation. Now, why are we BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

1 widening this -- why are we doing this job? Well,

- 2 we're trying to increase the traffic capacity of
- 3 this facility, we're also improving the traffic
- 4 efficiency, and we are trying to improve safety in
- 5 this corridor. How's it being done? We'll, we're
- 6 widening the roadway from two lanes to three lanes
- 7 in each direction. We're grade separating
- 8 interchanges on each side of the river and we're
- 9 widening and reconstructing the approach roadways.
- 10 Now, what's going to be the result? The result is
- 11 that the theoretical capacity of the bridge, of the
- 12 facility, will double, or very nearly double. The
- 13 traffic flow to and from -- up on the bridge is
- 14 being improved. The traffic flow at ground level,
- 15 Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway, will also
- 16 be improved and safety will be enhanced in the
- 17 entire facility.
- 18 Let's look in the background of the
- 19 bridge. Here is the existing bridge as it appears
- 20 today. It's a combined railroad/highway bridge.
- 21 It's got two tracks and it's got four lanes; four
- 22 nine-foot lanes. The bridge was built, completed,
- 23 back in 1935. It then was arguably the largest,
- 24 longest railroad bridge in the world. It still
- 25 keeps perhaps a part of that title, but there are

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1 larger railroad bridges that have been built since;

- 2 but it's still a very large railroad structure.
- Now, the bridge has the capacity to
- 4 carry more loads than we're putting on it. It is
- 5 very heavily built. It carries the biggest modern
- 6 traffic load, railroad load that exists and it has
- 7 many years of service remaining.
- Now, there have been various studies on
- 9 this project and it started back in 1982. In 1982
- 10 there was a study of a new bridge in this corridor.
- 11 In fact there was a study of five different
- 12 alternatives. And that study was completed but it
- 13 was never implemented because of the high cost of
- 14 the facility and the large amount of property taking
- 15 that would have been caused by the facility. So the
- 16 project then was dropped.
- 17 Now, in 1986 my firm was engaged by the
- 18 Highway Department to study the feasibility of
- 19 widening the existing bridge, and we began with a
- 20 24-foot widening. The existing lanes, by the way,
- 21 the existing roadways are only 18-feet wide. We
- 22 studied a 24-foot widening, a 28-foot widening, a
- 23 34-foot widening, and a 40-foot widening and
- 24 produced a report, a feasibility report to the
- 25 Highway Department. Now, by widening this bridge we BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 expected to achieve a facility that would have
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- 2 enhanced traffic capacity and we could do it at a
- 3 cost which was significantly less than building a
- 4 new bridge, and we thought we could have
- 5 significantly less environmental impact,
- 6 significantly less property impact, and we could
- 7 basically reuse the existing right of way to its
- 8 fullest and have a new facility with new capacity.
- 9 We published that final report in 1988.
- 10 In October of 1990 a geotechnical
- 11 investigation was completed by Eustis Engineering
- 12 Company that concluded that we could reuse the
- 13 existing piers, or to be specific, that the existing
- 14 piers had the capacity to carry additional loads,
- 15 the loads that would be generated by widened
- 16 roadways.
- 17 Let me just take an aside here to say
- 18 that railroad loading is much much heavier than the
- 19 highway loading, and therefore this bridge which
- 20 carries two railroad tracks has the capacity to
- 21 carry significantly more highway traffic without
- 22 really suffering any new stresses. It is a very
- 23 heavily built bridge.
- To continue with the background, 1992
- and '96 preliminary designs were prepared for the BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 main bridge, line and grade studies were made at the
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- 2 approaches, and we made a fatigue evaluation of the
- 3 main bridge. And what do I mean by "fatigue
- 4 evaluation"? We basically determined whether the
- 5 bridge had remaining fatigue life sufficient to
- 6 justify an investment in widening, and we determined
- 7 that it did. Then from -- there was a hiatus
- 8 between 1996 and 1999 while the Department basically
- 9 arranged enough funding to go forward with the
- 10 project. 1999 to 2000 we investigated not a 40-foot
- 11 widening but whether we could go to a 43-foot
- 12 widening, and we started the environmental process.
- 13 In 2000 there was a public meeting and many of you
- 14 probably attended that public meeting. It was in
- 15 this same venue and we had some very similar
- 16 exhibits to those that you have seen today. And
- 17 then from 2001 to the present day we, the
- 18 consultants for the Highway Department, we're doing
- 19 the final design of the main bridge, we're in the
- 20 midst of the environmental processing, and we're
- 21 doing additional line grade studies of the
- 22 approaches; one of which we're looking at tonight,
- 23 this W-3 which we're going to see in a moment.
- Let's look at the main bridge. Here is
- 25 the cross section of the widened bridge at the pier BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 and it is on one of the boards in the back that you
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- 2 have been able to see. Here is the widened bridge
- 3 near mid span. Here is the widened bridge. And
- 4 you'll notice that there are two new trusses. Here
- 5 are the existing trusses. And there are two new
- 6 trusses on the outside, so that what one may see a
- 7 two-truss single-barrel bridge becomes a four-truss
- 8 three-barrel bridge.
- 9 Now, what are the features of the main
- 10 bridge? The pier foundation to re-use. We have
- 11 explored this, as I said earlier, and we found that
- 12 the foundation was sufficient to carry the loads, so
- 13 the pier foundations are not modified. The bridge
- 14 piers are modified and strengthened with concrete
- 15 infill encasement and brackets. Two new trusses are
- 16 added parallel to the existing trusses, and the
- 17 roadways were widened from 18 feet, two nine-foot
- 18 lanes, to 43 feet. The proposed roadway will be
- 19 three 11-foot lanes (that's 33 feet), an eight-foot
- 20 shoulder on the right, and a two-foot offset on the
- 21 left. And that adds up to 43 feet.
- What will all of this cost? 108
- 23 million is our current estimate of the current cost.
- 24 Will the traffic be maintained? We believe the
- 25 bridge can be maintained with marine traffic

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1 maintained a hundred percent of the time, rail
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- 2 traffic maintained a hundred percent of the time,
- 3 and vehicular traffic maintained in some form or
- 4 other most of the time. And I want to show you how
- 5 that's going to be done. Here is a slide that shows
- 6 seven stages of maintenance of traffic. Again, it's
- 7 repeated in the back. And we're going to show each
- 8 stage individually.
- 9 This is Stage 1 which is essentially
- 10 the bridge as it exists today. That is a cantilever
- 11 bracket. This is a cantilever bracket and two
- 12 autos on an 18-foot roadway, two nine-foot lanes.
- 13 Stage 2, we take off the -- well, first
- 14 we restrict traffic to a single lane during this
- 15 stage while we take off the -- I'm sorry. Bruce,
- 16 put it back. I pressed the wrong button. While we
- 17 take off the sidewalk and the railing that existed
- 18 out here and replace it with a steel media, a steel
- 19 barrier, that barrier will serve while we build on
- 20 out in this direction. So, during that operation we
- 21 will restrict traffic to a single lane in each
- 22 direction. That operation, by the way, is estimated
- 23 to be on the order of some weeks, perhaps as many as
- 24 eight weeks.
- 25 Here is Stage 3. Traffic is now running BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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on the same place we had before and there are two
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- 2 nine-foot lanes protected by this barrier and we
- 3 extend them with the existing floor beam to a new
- 4 truss which is constructed here.
- 5 Stage 4, we construct a new roadway out
- 6 on that floor beam. This is the new roadway. And I
- 7 can't quite see it, but I think that roadway says
- 8 "20 feet wide" over there. Traffic stays on the old
- 9 roadway until the next stage. Now we move traffic
- 10 to that new roadway and we can allow two ten-foot
- 11 lanes now for that traffic over there. Now we take
- 12 the old roadway off of here, this area, and go to
- 13 the next stage. We build the remaining portion of
- 14 the new roadway in that area that we've vacated, and
- 15 finally we come to the last stage where the 43-foot
- 16 roadway is complete and we can accommodate three
- 17 lanes of traffic. That essentially is how the main
- 18 bridge is built.
- Now, what about the approaches? Well,
- 20 we had the September 2000 public meeting. At that
- 21 time there were four alternatives: We had
- 22 alternative W-1, W-2, and E1-A and E1-B. W-1, which
- 23 appears here today, was revised. This is W-1 up
- 24 here (indicating) at this board. It was revised to
- 25 reduce costs. We have tightened up the right-of-way

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- 1 a little bit. W-2 was dropped. W-2 was dropped
- 2 because it was non cost competitive. It was getting
- 3 too costly. Over here on this board to my left,
- 4 E1-A was revised to reduce costs. The geometry was
- 5 tightened and we reexamined properties and minimized
- 6 the right-of-way takings to reduce costs.
- 7 E1-B, which was one of the original
- 8 studies over here on the eastbank, was dropped. It
- 9 did not satisfy the objectives of the project which
- 10 was to enhance traffic. E1-B just didn't do the job
- 11 that we wanted done.
- 12 And a new study was then added, W-3,
- 13 which is on the board in the back. And W-3 is now
- 14 one of the two westbank alternatives. So, there are
- now two westbank alternatives, W-1 and W-3; one
- 16 eastbank alternative, E1-A, and, as always, a
- 17 do-nothing alternative.
- 18 Now, what is a do-nothing alternative?
- 19 Well, a do-nothing alternative is just that, no new
- 20 construction, no widening of the main bridge, no
- 21 elimination of the traffic signals, and essentially
- 22 the status quo, just as we've got it now.
- One other thing. What are the features
- 24 of the westbank alternatives we're starting over
- 25 there? Well, there are three lanes on both of these BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 alternatives from the bridge down to the set of
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- 2 grade-separation ramps that reach the ground at
- 3 Bridge City Avenue. And then there are two lanes
- 4 from the -- in each direction from those ramps out
- 5 to the west to ground level. U.S. 90 is elevated
- 6 over Bridge City Avenue. Bridge City Avenue is
- 7 improved and put on straight alignment with the
- 8 divided roadway, two lanes in each direction. Those
- 9 features are common to both W-1 and W-3.
- Now, what are the special features of
- 11 W-1? Well, the project W-1, if this laser will
- 12 shoot over there, W-1 ends prior to the U.S. 90/
- 13 LA-18 intersection; that is, the project ends on the
- 14 river side of the LA-18 intersection and there is no
- 15 change to the U.S. 90/LA-18 intersection. The
- 16 project footprint is wider than the other one, W-3.
- 17 And the alignment, however, of W-1 has been
- 18 developed so as to permit future improvements on
- 19 U.S. 90. W-3, on the other hand, the end of that
- 20 project, W-3 is the board in the back, the end of
- 21 that project is at the U.S. 90 overpass. W-1, the
- 22 project ends short of LA-18 and doesn't get to the
- 23 U.S. 90 overpass. In W-3 it does. The LA-18
- 24 intersection with U.S. 90 is divided, it is rebuilt,
- 25 several additional lanes are added. The project

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- 1 footprint of W-3 is more compact, the alignment is
- 2 streamlined, it has less private right-of-way
- 3 requirements, but it has the potential disadvantage
- 4 of future improvements to U.S. 90 are restricted at
- 5 the LA-18 intersection.
- 6 Let's look at the westbank impacts in
- 7 tabular form. The estimated right-of-way for W-1 is
- 8 17.1 one acres, it has half an acre of public
- 9 right-of-way impacted, and 23.1 acres of the
- 10 railroad impacted. W-3 on the other hand has only
- 11 six acres of private right-of-way required, 1.1
- 12 acres public right-of-way impacted, and 33.9 acres
- 13 of railroad property that are impacted. In terms of
- 14 relocations, W-1 has a total of ten relocations:
- 15 Seven singles, two doubles, and one multiple. Seven
- 16 singles, two doubles, and one multiple; a total of
- 17 ten relocations residential and 14 business
- 18 relocations. W-3 on the other hand has one single
- 19 relocation residential and 14 business relocations.
- 20 Let's look at the cost. The cost of
- 21 W-1 and W-3, if you take and compare, they're
- 22 virtually the same. The real estate cost of W-1 is
- 23 greater, eight million three. It has a construction
- 24 cost of 58 million five, estimated, for a total of
- 25 66 million 800 thousand. W-3 on the other hand has BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 a lower real estate cost, five million three, a
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- 2 construction cost of 61 million 800 thousand, for a
- 3 total estimated cost of 67 million 100 thousand.
- 4 Virtually a wash; they're both the same.
- 5 Let's look now at the eastbank
- 6 alternative. That's this board over here to my
- 7 left, your right. The beginning of the project on
- 8 Clearview Parkway is near Mounes Street, two lanes
- 9 from ground level at or near Mounes Street to the
- 10 grade separation ramps which cross Jefferson
- 11 Highway, three lanes from grade separation ramps to
- 12 the bridge, and Clearview Parkway is elevated over
- 13 Jefferson Highway. Jefferson Highway overpasses
- 14 have been removed, existing overpasses. It is a
- 15 conventional intersection. There are provisions not
- 16 seen readily here, but there are provisions for a
- 17 future fly-over ramp which will take Jefferson
- 18 Highway traffic directly onto westbank bound bridge
- 19 traffic. The provisions are being built in but the
- 20 ramp's not being built as part of this project. As
- 21 an aside, the East Corporate Drive and Mounes Street
- 22 intersections are still under some study.
- Now, what are the impacts on the
- 24 eastbank? Well, we only have this one alternative,
- 25 E1-A. It has 5.7 acres of private right-of-way to BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

- 1 be acquired, less than one-tenth of an acre of
- 2 public right-of-way impact, and 15.6 acres of
- 3 railroad property impacted. It has zero residential
- 4 relocations, takings, and nine business takings.
- 5 What are the costs? The costs, eastbank costs,
- 6 alternative E1-A has a real estate cost of 19
- 7 million 400 thousand. Those nine takings are
- 8 valuable takings and the cost, the estimated costs
- 9 are 19,400,000. It has a construction cost of 65
- 10 million 100 thousand for a total of 84 million 500
- 11 thousand. There in a nutshell is the Huey P. Long
- 12 widening project. Jan?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 14 Thank you. I would also like to
- 15 introduce someone else here this evening. We have
- 16 Mr. David Frank from the U.S. Coast Guard. A Coast
- 17 Guard permit will be required for the construction
- 18 of this project, and the Coast Guard is serving as a
- 19 lead federal agency. I would like to go ahead and
- 20 call a recess. Again, if you like to speak after
- 21 the recess during the question-and-answer part of
- 22 the meeting, please fill out a statement card and
- 23 turn it in to me or to the entrance table. I will
- 24 go ahead and call a recess for 20 minutes. Thank
- 25 you.

1

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24

(Brief recess).

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2
                   MS. JAN GRENFELL:
 3
                      Would everyone please be seated?
 4
     I would like to remind everyone to come up to the
 5
     mike to make your statements. The first card I have
 6
     is from Mike Matherne.
 7
                   MR. MIKE MATHERNE:
 8
                      I'm Mike Matherne. My question
     is, you know, right now we have two lanes and we're
9
10
     proposing an addition of one lane. Is that going to
11
     be sufficient and for how long? And should we go
12
     like four more lanes or something?
13
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
14
                       Mike, we're doing as wide as we
15
     think we can do on the existing bridge; however, the
     capacity of the two nine-foot lanes we have there
16
     now, actually the four lanes, two lanes in each
17
18
     direction, is probably only about 55,000 vehicles
19
     per day, which is about what it's running now. And
20
     yet the capacity of six good lanes with shoulders is
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25 benefit to capacity, even though technically it's
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110,000 range. So, there will be a significant

way way up above that. I think in my slide I said

think it will be up in the hundred thousand range,

this would double, or virtually double capacity. We

- 1 only two goes to three or four goes to six.
- 2 MR. MIKE MATHERNE:
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 5 Thank you. Keith Kiraly, Rock 'n
- 6 Roll Auto Sales.
- 7 MR. KEITH KIRALY:
- 8 Although I seem to be losing all
- 9 of my business, I do think it is the best thing for
- 10 the westbank and eastbank of Jefferson Parish. I
- 11 think it's long overdue. I hate to lose what I
- 12 built, but I do think it is the best thing we need
- 13 to do. Okay? That's all the time that I have.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Thank you. Carolyn Dupre?
- MS. CAROLYN DUPRE:
- Okay. I have three concerns, two
- 18 which I feel are rather pertinent to the people who
- 19 will be living there after the properties have been
- 20 bought. The first thing is, I understand from
- 21 speaking to someone who was involved in the
- 22 litigation after the Crescent City Connection was
- 23 built, the houses that were left remaining that
- 24 could not be purchased for easement suffered damage
- 25 to pile drivings and were never compensated. Well,

- 1 sometimes from what I understand.
- 2 My second issue is a law was just
- 3 passed this past legislative session making it
- 4 mandatory for all work on major road projects to be
- 5 done at night and off hours. We'll be working
- 6 during (inaudible) and I sleep at night. What kind
- 7 of provision is going to be made for that? And
- 8 also, how will these changes incorporate I-49 that
- 9 is planned in the future?
- 10 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 11 First, to answer your first
- 12 question, one of the standard procedures that will
- 13 be used on this project is to catalog conditions of
- 14 all of the houses along the right-of-way. We've
- done it on some other projects that we've been
- 16 involved in and it's very appropriate to -- because
- 17 it documents the condition of the houses and then it
- 18 documents clearly what if anything happened during
- 19 the construction, pile driving, earth moving, and it
- 20 makes a clear case, for or against, for damages to a
- 21 person, to the house. And we would expect to follow
- 22 that procedure on this project. Your second
- 23 questions had to do with I-49. No, that was the
- 24 third question.
- MS. CAROLYN DUPRE:

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1
                      About off-hours work.
 2
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
 3
                      Oh, the second question had to do
 4
     with the time of construction, working only at
 5
     night. And I don't think that's going to happen. I
 6
     think there's going to be work mainly during the
     daylight hours. There will be some work that will
 8
     be done at night so as to minimize traffic
     disruption.
10
                   MS. CAROLYN DUPRE:
11
                      And that will be in compliance
     with the new law that was passed? I understand the
12
13
14
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
15
                       I'm not sure I'm aware of a law
     that requires construction --
16
17
                   MS. CAROLYN DUPRE:
18
                       It just passed in this
19
     legislature.
20
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
21
                      Well, if there is a such a law we
22
     will have to comply with it. I don't think it's
23
     particularly wise. Anyway, your third question had
24
     to do with I-49. And either of these, both of these
25
     westbank alternatives would connect I-49. The
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1 distinction is that the W-1 alternative is set up to
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- 2 make a high-speed expressway in connection to I-49,
- 3 if it ever came to this point, and W-3 to make a
- 4 lesser high-speed connection, a lower-speed
- 5 connection.
- 6 MS. CAROLYN DUPRE:
- 7 Okay. Thank you.
- 8 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 9 Nick Giambelluca?
- 10 COUNCILMAN NICK GIAMBELLUCA:
- 11 I'm Councilman Giambelluca of
- 12 Jefferson Parish, District 6, and I'll be running
- 13 for At Large. You know, looking at your plans and
- 14 watching and looking at the studies that you have
- 15 made over the years goes back to what happens in the
- 16 Parish where we do study after study after study and
- 17 lots of people get rich over it but we never get
- 18 what we're studying for. I hope with the expansion
- 19 of the bridge and the widening to three standard
- 20 lanes that we'll get that done. And then after
- 21 that, then we need to move forward and expand the
- 22 westbank. But where is the money? Can we get it?
- 23 Because a lot of times, like I said, you have these
- 24 studies and they continue, and they get a million
- 25 dollars for a study and nothing is done. Looking at

- 1 your past record over the years you've been having
- 2 these studies, nothing's done. If you're going to
- 3 do it, it has to be done now. The money is
- 4 available. And, I guess: Where and how are we
- 5 going to get the money?
- 6 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 7 I think perhaps Mr. Carriere can
- 8 speak better than I for the Department, but I
- 9 believe that the money is in hand, that the TIMED
- 10 money for this project is poised to be bonded and
- 11 that the project is expected to start late in 2004,
- 12 actual construction.
- 13 COUNCILMAN NICK GIAMBELLUCA:
- 14 Well, I'm certainly looking
- 15 forward to it.
- MR. BLAISE CARRIERE:
- 17 Councilman Giambelluca, my name is
- 18 Blaise Carriere, I'm Deputy Secretary of the
- 19 Department of Transportation and Development. This
- 20 project is being constructed as one of the 16
- 21 enumerated projects from the TIME Program. Some of
- 22 you all that might be as old as I am remember back
- 23 in 1989 you voted on the TIME Program which
- 24 increased the fuel tax by four cents per gallon.
- 25 That's dedicated to 16 projects, one of which is the BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 Huey Long Widening Project. The Secretary, Dr.
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- 2 Movassaghi, set us on a course about two years ago
- 3 trying to finish all of the incomplete TIME Projects
- 4 before the end of this decade. And essentially
- 5 what we're doing is building the project just like
- 6 you're buying your house. We have a fairly steady,
- 7 reliable income stream with 12 years of history of
- 8 what the four cents per gallon has yielded. We are
- 9 using that income stream, going to the bank in a
- 10 sense, to the stock market or to the bond market in
- 11 New York and using the pledge of the four-cent fuel
- 12 tax which is dedicated to these projects to allow
- 13 construction to be undertaken and completed before
- 14 the end of this decade. So, funding is in place.
- The importance of this meeting tonight
- 16 is to allow the Coast Guard to hear your comments
- 17 because the Coast Guard, as we are hopefully going
- 18 to get a finding of no significant impact from them
- 19 as to the environmental decision that must be made
- 20 before we can commence construction. If we had
- 21 plans in hand today we would start construction
- 22 tomorrow. We can't do that until the Coast Guard
- 23 gives us that clearance to go. This is a very very
- 24 significant meeting tonight and your comments will
- 25 be part of that record on which they have to make

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- 1 that decision as to what we're going to do.
- 2 The numbers that Mr. Conway recited
- 3 earlier roughly totalled 260 million dollars. This
- 4 project can be funded and is funded through that
- 5 fuel tax and the sale of bonds. You will be paying
- 6 four cents per gallon until those bonds are retired
- 7 and is estimated to be in the year 2030. If we tried
- 8 to build these projects like we had been doing in
- 9 the past on the pay-as-you-go, collect roughly 115
- 10 million dollars per year which is what the four
- 11 cents yields, this project was originally scheduled
- 12 to be constructed in the late twenty teens, 2018,
- 13 2020. I don't think that's the course that you
- 14 think is practical nor did the Secretary think it's
- 15 practical. So, by taking the homeowner's approach
- 16 and build all these projects before the end of this
- 17 decade; this is one of them. And the other big
- 18 bridge is St. Francisville in East Baton Rouge and
- 19 West Feliciana Parish, Point Coupee Parish, and the
- 20 Florida Avenue crossing at the Industrial Canal.
- 21 Those three projects alone are almost 500 million
- 22 dollars. And I want to thank you all for buying
- 23 gasoline, because without you the program doesn't go
- 24 anywhere. Any other questions?
- 25 COUNCILMAN NICK GIAMBELLUCA:

1

No, sir. Thank you.

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2
                   MS. JAN GRENFELL:
 3
                      Thank you. Lee Giorgio?
 4
                   MR. LEE GIORGIO:
 5
                      My name is Lee Giorgio. I'm owner
 6
     of Select Properties Limited in Metairie, Louisiana.
     I'm also a resident of Jefferson Parish and also in
 8
     the role of Co-Chairman of Jefferson Parish Land Use
     Study that's been in progress for approximately two
9
10
     years now. We have been through, for two years we
11
     have been hearing public hearings, having public
12
     hearings and workshop groups and numerous -- a
13
     steering committee, a 24-person steering committee
14
     to help make decisions on future land use for the
15
     Parish and to keep Jefferson moving. Over and over
16
     again throughout that process, through the public,
17
     we have heard the encouragement for this project to
18
     go forward. The progress of Jefferson Parish is at
19
     hand and the fact that it looks like a lot of the
20
     redevelopment of Jefferson on the eastbank is more
21
     of a redevelopment situation whereas on the westbank
22
     it's the future of Jefferson Parish in new
23
     development.
24
                   Now, with that being said we'd like to
25
     once again just endorse that this project move as
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1 quickly as possible, and anything that can be done

- 2 to expedite is critical.
- 3 Some other issues that have come up
- 4 through the process is the fact of emergency
- 5 evacuation routes, the future development of I-49,
- 6 and then, likewise, future economic development
- 7 growth of Jefferson Parish. So, with that being
- 8 said, we highly recommend and encourage that this
- 9 project move forward as expeditiously as possible.
- 10 Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 12 Thank you. George Van Houten?
- MR. GEORGE VAN HOUTEN:
- 14 My name is George Van Houten. I
- 15 live at 680 Wiegand Drive in Bridge City. I have
- 16 been a resident of the westbank for the past 40
- 17 years and I'm hearing a lot of stuff tonight that
- 18 really distresses me. Certain issues have not been
- 19 addressed tonight. One lady came up here tonight and
- 20 she did, tried to address this issue. This is an
- 21 environmental impact study. That's what I'm
- 22 concerned about.
- First of all, let me say something,
- 24 there's an old adage that goes back to the Western
- 25 Frontier: "A man's home is his castle." You

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1 threaten my home, you threaten me. And I want you
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- 2 to know that tonight. And I'm going to make this a
- 3 political issue tonight. We have a councilmanic
- 4 race in my district coming up, and this is going to
- 5 be an issue in that district.
- Now, what am I concerned about? First
- 7 of all I'm concerned about the environment that I
- 8 will have to live in during the course of this
- 9 construction. Noise level, the driving of the
- 10 pilings, the impact on my home. Will it crack the
- 11 foundation of my home? And another thing: If my
- 12 home is damaged, how can I sell a damaged home? I
- 13 heard a man here tonight say, "Don't worry about
- 14 that, Mister, I have a buyer for your home." Well,
- 15 guess what? I accept it now. Buy my home now.
- 16 Don't wait 'til it's cracked. You buy my home now.
- 17 I challenge the State of Louisiana tonight. And I'm
- 18 going to write a complaint to the Coast Guard, and
- 19 this is a going to be a political issue in the
- 20 governor's race, too.
- 21 Let me tell you something: This is my
- 22 home. I have to live here. All these candidates
- 23 that's running and politicians, they don't have to
- 24 live here. There have their own homes away from the
- 25 impact situation. I'm not going to stand for this.

- 1 Let me explain something. Many years ago I had a
- 2 fight with the State Department of Transportation.
- 3 I can prove it to you. Guess what it was about?
- 4 They wanted to put repairs on the bridge, close down
- 5 the Huey P. Long Bridge for two weeks, close it down
- 6 night and day. I said, "You're not going to get
- 7 away with that." I talked to the Transportation
- 8 Secretary. He told me, "I only have to address
- 9 Governor Foster." I said, "Let me tell you
- 10 something: You address the people. The people pay
- 11 your salary, Mister, and the people pay the
- 12 Governor's salary, too. We elect the Governor." And
- 13 I want all these gubernatorial candidates in here
- 14 tonight to know, if they support this I will vote
- 15 against them. I will vote against them. The
- 16 Councilmanic district is coming up in District 2.
- 17 The candidates running, (inaudible), if I have to
- 18 qualify to run against them, I will. This is going
- 19 to be an issue here. This is my home. I live here.
- 20 You don't live here. The Coast Guard doesn't live
- 21 here. Now, if this is going to go though, buy my
- 22 home now. Don't wail 'til it's destroyed. Buy my
- 23 home now. And listen to what I'm telling you, I'm
- 24 sending you a warning: I will be out there.
- Now, going back to what I was saying

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- 1 before, he said the bridge was going to be closed.
- 2 You know what happened? That bridge wasn't closed.
- 3 I kept it open for two weeks. They did work at
- 4 night. That was the deal. If you don't believe me,
- 5 get the Times Picayune. Say one man can't do much;
- 6 one man can do a lot. You'd be surprised. And I
- 7 asked all these people here that live next to the
- 8 bridge: Beware of what's being done tonight. They
- 9 say it's progress. Nobody's against progress.
- 10 Sometimes progress is not good. Sometimes it's bad.
- 11 And when it affects my life and my property, then
- 12 I'm going to put my life on the line to defend it,
- 13 just like they did in 1882 with the homesteaders.
- 14 My home is my castle. Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 16 Thank you. Pete Chocheles?
- MR. PETE CHOCHELES:
- I'm Pete Chocheles. I represent
- 19 Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.
- 20 We're a strong supporter of this project. It's the
- 21 most important infrastructure project not only in
- 22 the parish but for the entire state. It opens vast
- 23 lands of development on the westbank and it improves
- 24 access to the biggest employer to the city, which is
- 25 Avondale. But, regardless of all that, we ask

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1 D.O.T.D. to take a concern to the residents and the

- 2 businesses that are affected seriously. And don't
- 3 be cheap if you have to settle with them. This
- 4 project is too important to delay for minor havoc.
- 5 Thank you.
- 6 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 7 Thank you. Philip Rebowe?
- 8 MR. PHILIP REBOWE:
- 9 Yes, I'm Philip Rebowe. I live on
- 10 the westbank but I work on the eastbank. My son
- 11 goes to school on the eastbank also. My wife owns a
- 12 retail business on the westbank and her business
- 13 depends on eastbank citizens and traffic coming over
- 14 the Connection and the Huey P. Long. I support this
- 15 project; I will say that. My concern is traffic.
- 16 You know, at various times during this project
- 17 traffic will be reduced on Huey P. Long and, you
- 18 know, people I think already are planning to avoid
- 19 the Huey P. Long and that whole area during this
- 20 ten-year construction phase. That's going to put a
- 21 lot of traffic on the Crescent City Connection. I
- 22 just want to know what studies or what issues, you
- 23 know, what has been addressed as far as, you know,
- 24 the increased traffic on the Crescent City
- 25 Connection? Is there any chance that we can lift
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- 1 tolls or have this work done at night to reduce the
- 2 traffic going on the eastbank? The westbank again
- 3 becomes a retail area along Manhattan and I-10 and
- 4 the westbank expressway, and a lot of retailers
- 5 depend on, you know, easy back and forth between the
- 6 bridges. And when that is reduced, a lot of
- 7 potential buyers on the eastbank will not come
- 8 across to the westbank to shop. So, I'm, you know,
- 9 concerned about traffic. It doesn't take much right
- 10 now for the traffic on the westbank to be
- 11 gridlocked. It would take an accident on the
- 12 Crescent City Connection or the Huey P. Long and the
- 13 bridge is backed up for miles. And at times we have
- 14 talked about lifting the tolls or, you know, or
- 15 opening up the Crescent City Connection when, you
- 16 know, there's construction being done or any
- 17 coordination between the Crescent City Connection
- 18 and, you know, any other agencies to make sure
- 19 traffic is not a problem?
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 21 I don't think --
- MR. PHILIP REBOWE:
- 23 If there's been traffic studies
- 24 done as to what effect this would have on the
- 25 Crescent City Connection when you shut down from one

- 1 lane going on the Huey P. Long Bridge for, you know,
- 2 a period of years or whatever you're shutting down
- 3 for --
- 4 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 5 At this point I don't believe
- 6 those kind of traffic studies have been done. But I
- 7 will say that only for a short few-week period will
- 8 this Huey Long Bridge have less than its current
- 9 capacity. And that was the period that I pointed
- 10 out when we do the initial removal of some elements
- 11 of the existing bridge. From that point on the
- 12 traffic on the main bridge, the roadway available
- 13 gets better and better.
- MR. PHILIP REBOWE:
- Well, I appreciate your
- 16 professional opinion, but I mean I believe that I
- 17 read that the D.O.T.D. thought the same thing when
- 18 they reduced the traffic going to Mississippi to one
- 19 lane to do asphalt overlay and it backed up like
- 20 three miles and caused like three hours of traffic.
- 21 So, again, I would urge you, as far as the
- 22 environmental studies, to do a traffic study and to
- 23 look at alternatives to -- because there's going to
- 24 be people, you know -- it doesn't take much, a
- 25 rainstorm, a traffic accident, to slow traffic down

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1 now. So, if there's construction on the side of the
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- 2 road and there's one lane and people drive slower,
- 3 that's going to derive more traffic and that's going
- 4 to keep people going back and forth and become a
- 5 headache. You know, kids have to go school, people
- 6 have to go to work and, you know, again I would just
- 7 look at the impact of the traffic on, you know, even
- 8 just a couple of weeks will make a difference.
- 9 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 10 I think we will go ahead and take
- 11 a look at that and see what comes of the study.
- 12 Thank you. Todd Murphy?
- MR. TODD MURPHY:
- Good evening. I'm Todd Murphy.
- 15 I'm a lifelong resident of Jefferson Parish and I
- 16 stand before you this evening as Chairman of the
- 17 Jefferson Chamber of Commerce which represents
- 18 businesses both on the east and westbank. We are
- 19 wholeheartedly in support of this project for
- 20 several reasons. We believe that it's essential as
- 21 was pointed out on the recent Division 20/20 Land
- 22 Use Study that, you know, land lock region the area
- 23 that we have to expand is obviously one of those
- 24 areas on the westbank. And we need to expand for
- 25 obvious economic development reasons. This will

1 bring in new residential properties. We have got to

- 2 build our tax base in this area for economic
- 3 development which leads to the quality of life and
- 4 education and other issues. We can't be a
- 5 progressive Jefferson with a 1935 bridge, so it's
- 6 time that this project gets under way. Obviously we
- 7 have got details to work out.
- 8 The concerns of traffic and how that
- 9 traffic is handled, certainly we want to be
- 10 sympathetic to that. The businesses and the
- 11 residents in the area, certainly all of those people
- 12 need to be taken into account. But again, the issue
- 13 here is that this needs to get started and pushed as
- 14 quickly as possible. Without this bridge we simply
- 15 don't have an expansion of Jefferson Parish. We
- 16 have got a lot of available land on the westbank and
- 17 we need to open it up. For too long this parish has
- 18 been divided by this river because there's no way to
- 19 access one side to the other in Jefferson Parish.
- 20 And that's the reason that the Jefferson Chamber is
- 21 wholeheartedly supporting this project. Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Thank you. Frank Douglass?
- MR. FRANK DOUGLASS:
- 25 I'm Frank Douglass. If you look

1 at that map over there underneath the bridge you see

- 2 the levee. And on top of that levee is a little a
- 3 white line. That's the Mississippi River Trail.
- 4 That is a multipurpose trail for people that hike,
- 5 bike, and such as that. That trail goes from
- 6 Audubon Park to Ormond Plantation at this point.
- 7 Some other trails end up at the head waters of the
- 8 Mississippi. Almost everything is completed except
- 9 of course in the Louisiana section, as is
- 10 traditional. The trail is so successful that
- 11 originally it was just going to stop at St. Louis,
- 12 but it's so successful they decided to go to the
- 13 head waters. It's so popular that they got to put a
- 14 trail on this side of the river and the other side
- of the river in Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish,
- 16 and St. Charles Parish. We still can't get across
- 17 that bridge. As a matter of fact we can't get
- 18 across the river very many places. The only place
- 19 you can get across the river is on the ferries when
- 20 they're working. It seems like we're trying to get
- 21 rid of a lot of ferries. Y'all have got more room
- 22 on that bridge than most of the streets in New
- Orleans have. You've got 10-foot, 8-foot shoulders.
- 24 We'd like to see it able to have bicycles cross that
- 25 bridge and find out what we've got to do to get it

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- 1 done. The very end of the exits seem to be a little
- 2 tight, and that doesn't give you much extra room to
- 3 get off or on that bridge. What can we do? Can we
- 4 do anything?
- 5 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- I do know that it's been looked at
- 7 from a safety point, a safety aspect of having
- 8 bicyclists on the bridge.
- 9 MR. FRANK DOUGLASS:
- 10 Let me tell you about safety. We
- 11 can take up there and down there, and I'm sure the
- 12 safety issues can be addressed without much trouble
- 13 or expense.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- I think it's a fact that
- 16 bicyclists are not allowed on the Greater New
- 17 Orleans Bridge nor the Huey Long Bridge.
- 18 MR. FRANK DOUGLASS:
- 19 When we built this Crescent City
- 20 Connection the guy who was the engineer I met at the
- 21 bike shop. He pushed to get a bike lane up there
- 22 and he was shot down. It's not that it wasn't tried
- 23 or possible. They do allow them on the
- 24 Donaldsonville bridge. Bicyclists can cross there.
- 25 You've got to pay a toll, though.

- 1 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 2 Those are the facts as they are
- 3 now.
- 4 MR. FRANK DOUGLASS:
- 5 Well, is there any possibility
- 6 that we can do something about getting a bike lane
- 7 on that bridge?
- 8 MR. BLAISE CARRIERE:
- 9 My appreciation in a personal
- 10 opinion in practicing law with an engineering
- 11 degree, that's U.S. 90 crossing right now. If this
- 12 section were in place and this bridge had an 8-foot
- 13 outside shoulder, under Traffic Code of the State of
- 14 Louisiana you're a legal vehicle on that bridge. So
- 15 you can go out there today on your bicycle, if this
- 16 bridge were in place, and cross it on the shoulder.
- 17 That's essentially what's going to happen on the St.
- 18 Francisville crossing. The shoulder of the roadway
- 19 and the handrail in fact on that particular bridge
- 20 is slightly higher because of the cycling
- 21 requirement.
- Now, you've got to be a pretty good
- 23 guy to be able to pump up and down that bridge. I
- 24 suspect you can do it, I'm looking at those legs.
- 25 They're in good shape. There is nothing that I'm

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1 aware of in the Traffic Code right now that would
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- 2 restrict you nor would a State Trooper issue a
- 3 citation for crossing on U.S. 90. The Luling bridge
- 4 is an interstate. You can't be on the Luling bridge.
- 5 There is insufficient room on the Crescent City
- 6 Connection. The shoulder there at best is what,
- 7 four feet on each side of road on the old direction?
- 8 I'm going to say to you tonight that bicycles can be
- 9 accommodated in the project and we're going to see
- 10 that we do that.
- 11 MR. FRANK DOUGLASS:
- I sure do thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 14 Thank you. Joyce Griffin?
- MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 16 My name is Joyce Griffin and I
- 17 live at 944 Hooter Road. And I'm going to go back
- 18 two to three years when they opened that drainage
- 19 canal in the back of my home. We're talking about
- 20 pile driving. They didn't do any pile driving; all
- 21 they did was a lot of digging. And with that
- 22 digging I gave ten feet of servitude on one side for
- 23 the drainage, I have five feet of servitude in the
- 24 front, and I give up 15 feet in the back. Now they
- 25 telling -- not only are they saying about the bridge

- 1 and it's a poor chance that no one will be affected;
- 2 that's not true. Because pile driving brings on
- 3 cracks. And if everybody here is on a slab cable,
- 4 we must be just going to float on in the river, huh?
- Now, the next one. Once this bridge is
- 6 completed, we have bad wind, we have bad weather.
- 7 If a truck is up there and maybe shift and have
- 8 equipment up there and say 200 feet from where you
- 9 live, that's not very far if something's going to be
- 10 coming off that bridge. And I feel like if you
- 11 gonna do this, which I'm not against, let's get that
- 12 straight. But I feel like people that don't want to
- 13 be that close, 200 feet for me is not very far away,
- 14 that they should be given the right before their
- 15 property is destroyed and they won't be able to sell
- 16 it the chance to sell it. Because the property
- 17 value right now is going down.
- 18 The last: Will there be a toll on this
- 19 new bridge?
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 21 At present I think the answer is
- 22 no.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 24 As far as the pile driving, Mr.
- 25 Conway talked about earlier that something will be BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

- 1 in the contract to monitor the vibration from the
- 2 pile drivings. That we will, I believe, have video
- 3 tapes, pictures of the houses in the area before we
- 4 start construction so we will have a record of it.
- 5 MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 6 But that won't say. Because you
- 7 say we're going to have a record that our homes will
- 8 not be damaged.
- 9 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 10 It will show the homes of what it
- 11 looked like before construction.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- But then if there is a clear-cut
- 14 show of damage to your home or someone else's home,
- 15 there is a clear-cut case for compensation for you.
- MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 17 What's clear-cut? That's the
- 18 question.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 20 Well, I mean, it's irrefutable,
- 21 nobody can refute.
- MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- Okay. Now, what about the
- 24 vehicles that -- we been having a lot of problems
- 25 with wrecks and stuff, not on the Huey P. Long, but

1 over the Huey P. Long. How safe are the houses that

- 2 are down there under there if something was to
- 3 happen?
- 4 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 5 Well, the current standard for
- 6 side barriers on the roadway are considerably more
- 7 severe, more protective, stronger, and higher than
- 8 they are on the existing bridge, the existing Huey
- 9 Long Bridge so that the probability of a vehicle
- 10 leaving the roadway and falling is much lower than
- 11 it was perhaps ten years ago before these standards
- 12 went into effect.
- MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 14 Thank you.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 16 And this bridge will conform to
- 17 the highest current standards.
- 18 MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 19 Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 21 Thank you. Timothy Briscoe, Sr.?
- MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
- I was listening attentively to any
- 24 that spoke and I have been in that area just a few
- 25 feet from the bridge all my life. And I feel like

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1 sacrificial lambs for those that live around there
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- 2 because of the health problems, what have you, from
- 3 the dust and the depreciation of our properties.
- 4 And you want to only give compensation to those that
- 5 -- you're on their property. What about us that are
- 6 left there with the noise factor, with the dust
- 7 factor, the health factor? And we just want to get
- 8 out of there and don't go through that. We won't
- 9 get what we need for our property. And in my case,
- 10 my father is still living. And he and I both are in
- 11 that property. And he's not staying there anymore
- 12 but we have to keep it up. But I have put in the
- 13 house, the old house, 35,000 cash right now. And if
- 14 you want to buy it, and which you don't want to buy
- 15 my loss.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 17 A noise study will be done to
- 18 assess the noise impacts and ascertaining whether or
- 19 not noise mitigation is reasonable and feasible. We
- 20 will do that as part of this project because of the
- 21 bridge widening, but I don't know at this time if --
- MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
- You say there will be a study?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 25 Yes.

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MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
 1
 2
                      Now, you will do that before you
 3
     start?
 4
                   MS. JAN GRENFELL:
 5
                      Before we start the construction
 6
     as part of the environmental assessment that's being
 7
     prepared right now.
 8
                   MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
 9
                      So, I can be assured that we will
     have another meeting? Because this is just a primer
10
11
     before you start; right?
                   MS. JAN GRENFELL:
12
13
                      This is a public meeting to
14
     present the alternatives as they're being proposed
15
     right now. And from these alternatives we will look
     at the impacts associated with those alternatives.
16
17
                   MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
18
                      Because it's really understood,
19
     you know, if people from the Chamber of Commerce and
20
     other people that's not going to be actually
21
     involved and affected by this saying that it's a
22
     great thing for Jefferson Parish. But what about
23
     us?
24
                   MS. JAN GRENFELL:
25
                      This is one of the projects. This
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1 is one of the TIMED Projects that was approved by

- 2 voters in 1989, the voters of Louisiana.
- 3 MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
- I am going to ask this question
- 5 and then go to my seat. As much money as you're
- 6 putting in an addition, why can't you go up the road
- 7 a piece where there is no property that will be
- 8 involved and build another bridge up there where all
- 9 the traffic is, from where it's coming from? In
- 10 between Avondale and between the property they have
- 11 a lot of railroad property up there and a lot of
- 12 open and vacant land, and you can build a new bridge
- 13 without disturbing us.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- The widening of the existing
- 16 bridge is one of the projects that is in the TIME
- 17 Program, and it is the widening of the existing Huey
- 18 Long Bridge. However, there were studies done I
- 19 believe in 1982 looking at other locations, I think
- 20 five or so other locations, for a possible new
- 21 bridge. And the studies showed that the costs and
- 22 impacts associated would be significantly greater
- 23 than widening the existing bridge.
- MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
- 25 So we're just interested in cost
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being affected by this?
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- 2 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 3 The cost of the project and the
- 4 impact to people, to businesses, with a new
- 5 crossing. And the impact, relocations in other
- 6 places.
- 7 MR. TIMOTHY BRISCOE, SR.:
- 8 It's still sacrificial. It's
- 9 still sacrificial for the business. When I heard
- 10 this and the politicians saying that they don't --
- 11 we also have our taxes pay for their jobs and what
- 12 have you. And much of this affects us and to pay
- 13 more money for the health of us. Because I'm a
- 14 retired cement finisher and I know cement itself
- 15 creates dust. And when the wind blows on the
- 16 construction places when you pour the foundation,
- 17 you pouring the pilings or the casing and all of
- 18 this, winds blows all over. Now, those that live
- 19 around the bridge won't be able to come out their
- 20 homes. You have dust flying everywhere. And I'm
- 21 not talking about what I think; I'm talking about
- 22 what I know.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 24 Thank you. Tara Lynn?
- MS. TARA LYNN:

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I have two simple questions for
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- 2 you. First off: What is the anticipated time
- 3 between the project and the Stage 5 stage where
- 4 we'll actually have two additional lanes available
- 5 to us at any given time? Basically, when is our
- 6 traffic going to go back to a normal point after the
- 7 initial eight weeks it can take with one lane? How
- 8 long between that time and the completion?
- 9 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 10 After the first eight weeks you
- 11 will be back to two lanes, two nine-foot lanes,
- 12 which is what we have now. So you'll be back to
- 13 your initial condition at that point.
- Ms. TARA LYNN:
- Between the time of the two lanes
- 16 and the completion of the project is an estimated
- 17 how long?
- MR. CONWAY:
- 19 It's probably something like six
- 20 to seven years.
- 21 MS. TARA LYNN:
- Wow.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 24 And I mean completion, not just
- 25 the main bridge portion. I'm talking the whole

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project.
 1
 2
                   MS. TARA LYNN:
 3
                      Okay. Just the bridge portion, how
 4
     long --
 5
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
 6
                       The bridge portion is probably
     five years.
 8
                   MS. TARA LYNN:
 9
                      Are they going to be working on
     both sides simultaneously?
10
11
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
12
                       Yes.
                   MS. TARA LYNN:
13
14
                      That's a long time.
15
                   MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
16
                      But during that period we will
17
     expect and we will plan for two lanes of traffic in
18
     each direction operating virtually all the time.
     There will be times, short times, when we're putting
19
     a piece of steel over the road and the police will
20
21
     have to block the road temporarily until the steel
22
     goes up.
23
                   MS. TARA LYNN:
24
                      My other question is: When will it
25
     be decided and by whom on the alternative that's
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- 1 chosen, and planned?
- 2 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- We have two alternatives for the
- 4 westbank proposed this evening and for the draft
- 5 Environmental Assessment that we're preparing for --
- 6 the U.S. Coast Guard is lead federal agency. A
- 7 preferred plan will be named on the document. We
- 8 are here tonight to get input.
- 9 MS. TARA LYNN:
- 10 Also, I have to say, a person that
- 11 lives right near the bridge and works on the
- 12 eastbank, and I know I'm going to go through all
- 13 kinds of trouble getting back and forth to work, I
- 14 think this is going to be really great for this end
- 15 of the westbank. Because we really look at the
- 16 other end of the westbank which has the Crescent
- 17 City Connection, it has developed so much more
- 18 rapidly because there's much easier access to it. I
- 19 can personally name ten people that won't drive the
- 20 Huey P. because it's so narrow. I think it's going
- 21 to be beneficial with a lot of headaches. But with
- 22 progress sometimes comes a headache.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 24 Thank you. John Catledge?
- MR. JOHN CATLEDGE:

- 1 Is there someone here that can
- 2 give us some information about traffic counts, past,
- 3 present, anticipated? And even the nature of that
- 4 traffic count. Where is it coming from? Where is
- 5 it going?
- 6 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 7 I can't give you that off the top
- 8 of my head. I think that the traffic count on the
- 9 bridge is something in the order of 55,000 A.D.T.,
- 10 average daily traffic. Both directions, 55,000.
- 11 But beyond that I could guess but I better not.
- 12 This is Ms. Sternitzke from my staff.
- MS. MARTHA STERNITZKE:
- 14 From the present date traffic
- 15 counts are projected a rate of 1.4 percent per year
- 16 annual growth for a 20-year period, and the
- 17 alternatives have been designed with those numbers,
- 18 so it's about a 35-percent increase in traffic over
- 19 today's volumes.
- MR. JOHN CATLEDGE:
- 21 How does that compare with say
- 22 traffic in the early eighties say? Is there any
- 23 comparison between that?
- MS. MARTHA STERNITZKE:
- I don't know those numbers off the BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

- 1 top of my head.
- 2 MR. JOHN CATLEDGE:
- In addition, this is sort of --
- 4 where is the traffic coming from? Is it coming from
- 5 Highway 90 or coming off the Westbank Expressway, or
- 6 evenly divided between the two? How is traffic
- 7 coming into the bridge? I'm just curious to know
- 8 where the traffic is coming from.
- 9 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- I don't think for purposes of
- 11 this project that an origin destination study has
- 12 been made. But the traffic is coming and has been
- 13 measured as coming from certain things like Bridge
- 14 City Avenue, a certain amount adds to the facility
- 15 and a certain amount comes down U.S. 90B. I think
- 16 the Highway Department or U.S. 90, the D.O.T.D. in
- 17 their records, and Steve Strength would be the man
- 18 who might know this offhand, in their records they
- 19 have the record of where that traffic comes from.
- 20 Does it come from the west from Avondale or from the
- 21 east from the westbank expressway? We don't know it
- offhand.
- MR. JOHN CATLEDGE:
- 24 Thank you very much.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:

1	Thank you. M. Raines?
2	MR. MICHEL RAINES:
3	My name is Michel Raines. I live
4	on Barnes Street. Just one question: We have a hard
5	time getting in and out of Wiegand on Bridge City
6	Avenue. We only have one way in and out. Are y'all
7	going to give us an alternative route to get to the
8	river from where we live, even for emergency
9	vehicles?
10	MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
11	No. The answer there is no.
12	That's kind of a neighborhood improvement and may be
13	very badly needed, but it's not part of this
14	project.
15	MS. JAN GRENFELL:
16	Steve Alvarez?
17	MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
18	Good evening. I'm President of
19	Nine Mile Point Community Association. And y'all
20	have come a long way from the meeting we had years
21	ago when y'all was going to uproot a lot of
22	neighborhoods and put the twin span down river. And
23	this Alternative 3 that y'all have seems to be what
24	the majority of the people were looking for;
25	something that did the job, disturbed as few people
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1 and businesses as possible. We met with y'all a

- 2 couple of times.
- 3 Our association had asked one thing we
- 4 wanted y'all to look into, the possibility of having
- 5 some means of getting the local traffic such as
- 6 Bridge City and Nine Mile Point and onto Westwego on
- 7 the bridge without having to cross the Avondale
- 8 Shipyard traffic in the evening which tends to
- 9 create a bottleneck. One thing we had asked y'all a
- 10 while back to look at, and I don't know whether
- 11 y'all did, I got here late and I apologize, you may
- 12 have gone over this, was the possibility of putting
- 13 a spiral helix at the River Road that would feed
- 14 local traffic onto the River Road. I don't know
- 15 whether y'all had ever done that or not. That's one
- 16 of the things I wanted to ask you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 18 It was requested at the last
- 19 meeting. I think we looked at it and I think as
- 20 part of this project it's not being proposed.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 22 That's correct. It's not proposed
- 23 at this time in this project.
- MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- 25 It would have been to expensive or BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1
    you just --
2
3
4
5
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- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- A spiral helix ramp has
- operational problems that prompt a geometric point
- of view that's not considered desirable, and it was
- 6 an additional cost for a movement that didn't have
- the demand, that justified demand.
- 8 MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- 9 You may have gone over this. At
- 10 the base, when the traffic that's going to feed on
- 11 Alternate 3 for local traffic, are you going to have
- a control light there or something that's going to 12
- 13 stop the Avondale traffic and the shipyard traffic
- 14 where the other traffic can flow? Or is there a
- 15 Causeway police paid by Avondale to set there and
- hold you up most of the time while the shipyard 16
- 17 leaves?
- 18 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 19 We will set it up to be a fair
- situation. 20
- 21 MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- 22 It will have controlled traffic
- 23 lights?
- 24 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 25 How it gets operated may be

- 1 beyond our control.
- 2 MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- Right now it's set up to have
- 4 lights at that intersection; is that correct?
- 5 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- It will be set up so that the
- 7 ramp traffic, the bridge ramp traffic gets a fair
- 8 shot to go through the intersection and make their
- 9 turns.
- 10 MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- 11 There will be traffic lights there
- 12 is what I'm asking.
- MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 14 Yes. Very much so.
- MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
- 16 Okay. Then I think most of our
- 17 association is in favor of that project, it looks
- 18 good, Alternate 3. I want to congratulate you.
- 19 Thank you for a job well done. Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Thank you. Jessie Holmes?
- MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- 23 Good afternoon. My name is Jessie
- 24 Holmes. I have been living in the shadows of the
- 25 Huey P. Long Bridge all my life. I want to know:
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1 How would you determine fair market value for the
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- 2 property of the people who will be displaced or the
- 3 property that you would damage during the
- 4 construction?
- 5 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- I'm going to let our real estate
- 7 person, Mr. Paul Charron, answer that question.
- 8 MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- 9 I'll be seated while you answer
- 10 that.
- 11 MR. PAUL CHARRON:
- 12 As far as the property that we'll
- 13 be acquiring, we will have two appraisers go out and
- 14 appraise the property and all of the other interests
- 15 involved, leasehold interests and that sort of
- 16 thing. After the appraisers have completed their
- 17 work we'll review the appraisals and then we will
- 18 start negotiating with the property owners. Does
- 19 that answer your question?
- MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- Yeah, it answers it somewhat.
- 22 But, you see, what may it look like (inaudible)
- 23 for some people, hey, it means the world to us.
- 24 That's the only thing I'm saying.
- MR. PAUL SHARRON:

1 You're a resident? You own a

- 2 home?
- 3 MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- 4 I was born and raised here in
- 5 Bridge City almost. I'm 57 years old. I've never
- 6 lived nowhere but in the shadows of the bridge.
- 7 MR. PAUL CHARRON:
- But you're occupying a home?
- 9 MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- 10 Yes. I occupy a home and land in
- 11 Bridge City.
- MR. PAUL CHARRON:
- In addition to the acquisition of
- 14 the property there is also the Relocation Assistance
- 15 Program that will help you to relocate. So that's
- 16 in addition. And residential relocation business
- 17 has very good benefits. And we look for a
- 18 replacement property that's decent, safe, and
- 19 sanitary. We will work with you to make it as easy
- 20 as possible in that relocation. I hope that answers
- 21 your question.
- MR. JESSIE HOLMES:
- I hope it do. Thank you.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Thank you. Yvonne McPherson?

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19

20

21

2	Good evening. I am Yvonne Donna
3	McPherson, retiree of Jefferson Parish Public School
4	System and a high school administrator. My concern
5	in this area, of which I'm very happy to know that
б	we have properties on the westbank which is well
7	needed because of the situation with the Expressway
8	which should have extended onto Highway 90, which it
9	didn't because of lack of funds. Of course I have a
10	question about that, too. But what I say, I want to
11	have studies be done or will be in the making in
12	regard to the health problems. It was touched on
13	slightly. Because there are persons who are
14	suffering from asthma, children who have lots of it.
15	And of course our age, all of those persons should
16	be looked into, and also the relocation which was
17	mentioned. When these projects or proposals are

MS. YVONNE McPHERSON:

being completed we need to know just what is going

to be done with the relocation of the elderly, and

of course those with various illnesses. There are

some persons who are in wheelchairs, and we want to

- 22 be certain that they are not forgotten. So, please,
- 23 look into that area. And I know we're looking
- 24 forward to the proper policing as well, which I know
- 25 is not in your area, but I know you'll be working BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

1 along with Sheriff Lee's department and looking for

- 2 the best safety procedures as we possibly may have.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 5 Thank you. I have no more cards.
- 6 If there is anyone else who would like to make a
- 7 statement or ask a question, please come to the mike
- 8 and state your name.
- 9 MR. FARRELL LEDET:
- 10 My name is Farrell Ledet. I live
- 11 at 940 Hooter. The man asked a while ago: Why
- 12 can't we open up the back of Wiegand? Why can't
- 13 y'all answer that question? Is there a reason why
- 14 the front half can't go out the back? On Oak Street
- 15 it's open. On the other side of the bridge all the
- 16 streets is open. What are we, a bunch of rats?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- The project is proposed just to
- 19 widen the Huey P. Long Bridge, and other
- 20 improvements outside of that are not part of this
- 21 project.
- MR. FARRELL LEDET:
- I understand that. But, if we get
- 24 bottlenecked in the front, emergency vehicles can't
- 25 get in. There's no way to get in on Wiegand,

- 1 Hooter, nothing like that on the back side. They
- 2 got to come in from the front. If it locks up with
- 3 traffic, like he said earlier, a piece of metal
- 4 going across the road, can tie it up. A truck wreck
- 5 can tie it up. What do we do? We just got to sit
- 6 in our house or sit in front of our neighbor's house
- 7 and wait? If they open up a back exit for us to get
- 8 out we can get to the River Road, too. We can live
- 9 like people.
- 10 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- I'm not sure what we've looked at
- 12 as far as emergency vehicles. I know we will work
- 13 with the Parish to make sure the emergency vehicles
- 14 can make it through when they need to. I don't know
- 15 the specifics right now, but I know as part of that
- 16 we will work something out with the Parish.
- 17 MR. FARRELL LEDET:
- 18 And nobody knows why they can't
- 19 open that road? We got the councilman here, we got
- 20 everybody here, and nobody can tell us why we can't
- 21 get out to that River Road? They should have told
- 22 us that when we bought them houses. First they come
- 23 and took 15 by 50 from us to turn around to the
- 24 people in the back to drain and flood us and make
- 25 our property go down, and now we just sit here and BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

1 wait for the bridge to get wider and everybody has

- 2 to cross? Buy us out. Give us what y'all want.
- 3 15, \$10,000. I would like to hear it.
- 4 MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
- 5 That's not a bridge problem, but
- 6 I'll answer your question after.
- 7 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Please come to the mike and state
- 9 your name.
- 10 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- 11 Reverend Dyson, pastor of Third
- 12 Emanuel Baptist Church, 187 3rd Street, Bridge City.
- 13 Several responses that were given tonight were that
- 14 you were going to do additional studies. What I
- 15 would like to know is: How can we get that
- 16 additional study that you're going to do?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 18 Which one were you referring to?
- 19 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- 20 Several responses you gave to
- 21 various questions, each time you said, "We will do
- 22 an additional study" to look at the traffic as it
- 23 relates to the Greater New Orleans bridge, as it
- 24 relates to the Huey P. Long Long Bridge, and several
- 25 other questions. But when will you do that study

1 and how will it be made available to the residents

- 2 of Bridge City before you really go forward with
- 3 this project?
- 4 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 5 Right now we're preparing a Draft
- 6 Environmental Assessment for the proposed widening,
- 7 and the comments and questions that were brought
- 8 forth at this meeting will be looked at and will be
- 9 addressed in the environmental assessment. I don't
- 10 know yet when that will be made available. When it
- 11 does, when the Coast Guard approves the document for
- 12 distribution it will be made available. And the
- 13 information will be --
- 14 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- How will it be made available to
- 16 the residents of Bridge City?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 18 We will see what we can do. We
- 19 will see what we can do to make sure --
- 20 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- 21 And give us enough time to read
- 22 it. This is a great document that you presented
- 23 tonight, but I wish we had a little time to read it
- 24 and study it and then look at your presentation to
- 25 be able to formulate good questions to you tonight BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

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1 instead of being at the meeting and then coming up
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- 2 with questions. How are we to do this ahead of time
- 3 when you have the next meeting so we can develop
- 4 some questions?
- 5 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 6 At this time another meeting is
- 7 not planned.
- 8 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- 9 So this is it.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 11 What will do is we will look at
- 12 all the comments that were made this evening and see
- 13 what we can do to address those comments. When the
- 14 document is available it will be available at the
- 15 District Office, the District 2 Office in Bridge
- 16 City, as well as local libraries.
- 17 REV. JOSEPH DYSON:
- 18 Well, let me make this
- 19 recommendation. I would think, and I'm not saying
- 20 that I'm for or against, but I would think that
- 21 before the Coast Guard makes any decisions, I think
- 22 the documents in terms of those studies, the answers
- 23 to those citizens need to be made available to us so
- 24 that we may study it and look at it, and then
- 25 another meeting should be held so that we can come

1 and discuss this again before you go forward, before

- 2 it's approved.
- 3 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 4 We will take that into
- 5 consideration. Thank you. Ma'am, please come to
- 6 the mike and state your name.
- 7 MS. DELANEY POTEET:
- 8 Hi, I'm Delaney Poteet. I live
- 9 here on Oak Avenue. Last time you were here was
- 10 about two years ago and I approached you and asked
- 11 you to be accountable (inaudible) these studies, so
- 12 that's why I'm in a quandary wondering why you can't
- 13 give us all of these numerical figures so that we
- 14 can make our own assessment of whether we should
- 15 choose this one, this one, or whatever
- 16 you're proposing. The problem is, is the
- 17 individuals that live in the community are not
- 18 informed. We have access to newspapers, or you say
- 19 it's here or it's there, but we find out about it
- 20 after the fact; so that's why I'm here, to speak
- 21 like a regular person and say: We're angry. We
- 22 feel like we're just not being heard at all. We
- 23 live here. Our families have lived here. We do not
- 24 like being treated like second-class citizens. Most
- 25 of us do have to live in poverty. That is the BNEW ORLEANS, LA * (504)488-DEPO * (800)528-9039

- 1 problem. I understand that you will be compensating
- 2 us, but I'm also a real estate agent. I am under the
- 3 impression they will compensate only a portion; it
- 4 will not be the complete. Therefore, the
- 5 individuals are not being educated properly to tell
- 6 them that they will not receive compensation for
- 7 their dwelling, etcetera, etcetera. FEMA gives them
- 8 a portion for a financial loan, for the difference
- 9 in the loan. I can't afford a loan to recondition
- 10 my home. I'm sorry. These are the things that I
- 11 know everybody is telling me because I'm an election
- 12 commissioner, I'm a notary public, and I have to
- 13 work within this community. I don't want to see us
- 14 landlocked. We don't have any other access to get
- 15 across the bridge if we have time constraints. It's
- 16 adding hours to our travel time plus the monies.
- 17 They're not going to take away the dollar fifty for
- 18 traveling. They penalize the westbank to cross the
- 19 bridge, but it's okay for the eastbank to come over
- 20 here for free.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 22 As far as the partial takings, Mr.
- 23 Charron had explained the real estate policy, how
- 24 that works. And the purpose of coming here this
- 25 evening is to get input on the alternatives as

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- 1 they're currently proposed, that's why we're here,
- 2 to get input, verbally or in writing, for you to let
- 3 us know your concerns about the project.
- 4 MS. DELANEY POTEET:
- 5 We need to have more specifics
- 6 distributed within the community, whether it be
- 7 through the churches or whether it be just at a town
- 8 meeting. We have a republican representative, David
- 9 Vitter, he has town-hall meetings. I hadn't seen
- 10 you guys in two years. That's what we're angry
- 11 about; not that we don't want this. Progress is
- 12 great. There's nothing constant except for change.
- 13 Any good change everybody would embrace.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- We've had more meetings,
- 16 additional meetings in addition to this one in the
- 17 meantime, and we have attended several civic
- 18 associations and business meetings on both the
- 19 eastbank and the westbank. Some of you have seen us
- 20 in this time between the September 2000 meeting and
- 21 this one. We are here tonight because we want to
- 22 show you the alternatives that we have proposed
- 23 right now and tell you the reasons why the other
- 24 alternatives have been dropped. And it's good we
- 25 have your input.

- 1 MS. DELANEY POTEET:
- 2 Can you give us those dates when
- 3 you might have all this updated for us to review it
- 4 again?
- 5 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 6 We don't have a date yet. When we
- 7 do, when we have a document that is approved for
- 8 public distribution we will do so.
- 9 MS. DELANEY POTEET:
- 10 May I ask if I can be on the list
- 11 for personal documentation so I can at least talk to
- 12 people?
- 13 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 14 It will possible for us to let you
- 15 know when it's available and where it's available.
- 16 I believe we can set something up at the sign-in
- 17 table, specifically for notification.
- MS. DELANEY POTEET:
- 19 Well, I would appreciate it. And
- 20 I'm sure I'm feeling the same for everybody here.
- 21 We're not trying to be belligerent, we're not trying
- 22 to be argumentative, we're just trying to be
- 23 informed and we want you all to be accountable so
- 24 that we feel comfortable with the progress being
- 25 made. So, I thank you all.

1	MS. JAN GRENFELL:
2	Thank you.
3	MS. MARY ORDOYNE:
4	I'm Mary Ordoyne. I would like
5	know: During the eight-week period there's only two
6	lanes crossing the east and west, would it be a
7	possibility of limiting the tractor-trailer trucks
8	going to and from?
9	MR. WILLIAM CONWAY:
10	I think that's a very good idea
11	and there is a possibility. It would be up to the
12	D.O.T.D. to decide whether that restriction can be
13	put in effect. That same idea has been expressed
14	several times tonight to us.
15	MS. JAN GRENFELL:
16	Please state your name.
17	MR. STEVE ALVAREZ:
18	Steven Alvarez with the Nine Mile
19	Point Community Association. In your defense, any
20	time we have asked y'all to come to our organization
21	meeting, I believe y'all have come twice since the
22	last meeting we've had here. It's the people that
23	need to be in touch with their civic groups and read
24	the paper that know what's going on. We have had
25	meetings. I personally put out 200 fliers in our
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- 1 association area and had a whole firehouse full of
- 2 people, if you remember, when y'all came last time.
- 3 A lot of times people just aren't paying attention.
- 4 But y'all do communicate well with our organization
- 5 and some other organizations, too. So, you know,
- 6 and I expect that y'all will give us a notice and we
- 7 will have a verification at the meeting as to what's
- 8 going on. And that's put in the Westbank Guide on
- 9 a regular basis.
- 10 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 11 Thank you. Is there anyone else
- 12 who would like to make a statement or ask a
- 13 question? Please state your name into the record.
- MR. MIKE MATHERNE:
- 15 Mike Matherne. And I agree with
- 16 the project. I think it needs to be done. It's a
- 17 very good thing. But I feel, and I know you studied
- 18 it in the past, but I think we're going to need
- 19 another bridge at the present time because the cost
- 20 of building bridges is just going to escalate.
- 21 Sooner or later we have to build a new bridge. And
- 22 if we build it and construct it and completed a new
- 23 bridge before this proposal would go into effect we
- 24 could possibly shut this bridge down, use the other
- 25 bridge while this is under construction and then we

1 wouldn't have to suffer. You know, do the revision

- 2 on this bridge if we had a new, complete bridge. I
- 3 know it would take many years to complete all this,
- 4 but I think that would be to best way to go.
- 5 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 6 Again, with the study that was
- 7 done in the eighties, we looked at several different
- 8 locations, five I believe, for other new bridge
- 9 prospects. And in each case, not only cost but the
- 10 impact, the relocations, the changes in traffic
- 11 patterns were significant for a new bridge.
- MR. MIKE MATHERNE:
- Well, I just feel sooner or later
- 14 it will happen, we may not live to see it but it
- 15 will happen. We will have another bridge, whether
- 16 it's in between the Greater New Orleans bridge or
- 17 the Huey P., or between the Earhart and the Huey P.,
- 18 but there will be another one. We may not ever see
- 19 it. I think with the way and the multiplication of
- 20 people, the traffic is just getting worse and worse,
- 21 and I think it would be soon we will be proposing
- 22 another bridge.
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 24 Thank you. Would anyone else
- 25 like to speak?

```
1 MS. JOYCE BRICKER:
```

- I want to add something.
- 3 MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- 4 Please come to the mike and state
- 5 your name again for the record.
- 6 MS. JOYCE GRIFFIN:
- 7 Joyce Griffin. I'm listening to
- 8 you saying -- every time you say something you're
- 9 saying: Well, that's probably what the bridge is.
- 10 They keep saying that we don't -- our budget. We
- 11 have gotten enough money. We come up with this one
- 12 because it's less expensive but inconvenience people
- 13 of a community. I don't even understand where
- 14 expenses is going. And I'm confused. If you don't
- 15 live in the community it really doesn't affect you.
- 16 It's only affecting you if you're here knowing that
- 17 you have to be here and your property is going to be
- 18 damaged with you in there. And I just feel -- I
- 19 mean, everything is about the dollar. Well, what
- 20 about the community that lives there by that bridge?
- MS. JAN GRENFELL:
- Thank you. Is there anyone else
- 23 who would like to make a statement or ask a
- 24 question?
- 25 (No response).

1	MS. JAN GRENFELL:
2	If not, if you would like to make
3	a written statement to the Department, please do so
4	within 10 days so that your statements can become
5	part of the transcript of this meeting. If there
6	are no more questions or statements I will go ahead
7	and close this meeting.
8	(No response).
9	MS. JAN GRENFELL:
10	Thank you very much.
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